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Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session

The situation in Iraq

Letter dated 8 April 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion of an item entitled "The situation in Iraq" in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, with a view to its consideration at the earliest opportunity during the resumed fifty-seventh session.

Pursuant to rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I attach an explanatory memorandum (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Abdullah M. **Alsaidi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Chairman of the Arab Group

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Annex

Explanatory memorandum

The Republic of Iraq, a founding Member of the United Nations, as well as of the League of Arab States, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, has been subjected to a comprehensive American-British military attack since 20 March 2003, in a flagrant violation of that country's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence. The military operations have led to the destruction of Iraq's infrastructure, in the form of electrical and water installations, residential quarters, houses, hospitals, mosques and churches. Thousands of civilians, particularly women and children, have been killed or injured through arbitrary bombardment by aircraft or long-range missiles, or as a result of the attack by American-British military forces, accompanied by tanks and artillery, as they try to occupy cities and villages in the north, centre and south of Iraq.

In conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, and particularly international humanitarian law, which, under the Geneva Conventions of 1949, prohibits the harming of civilians and imposes a duty to respect the dignity of prisoners and treat them humanely, the Arab Group at the United Nations has decided to request inclusion of an item entitled "The situation in Iraq" for consideration at the resumed fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly.